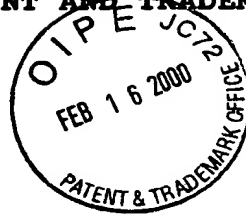


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: TAKAHASHI, et al  
Serial No.: 09/496,465  
Filed: February 2, 2000  
For: ELECTRONIC BUSINESS TRANSACTION SYSTEM  
Group: 2761  
Examiner: G. Morgan



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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

February 16, 2000

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Please add new claims 13 and 14 as follows:

13. A method of achieving electronic business transactions in an electronic business transaction system including a plurality of member sites, a center site, and a network to connect the member sites and the center site to each other, said method comprising:

storing information of open businesses issued by a plurality of member sites to find business partners in an open business information database in said center site;

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